मिलियन जापानी येन की राशि के दो ऋण समझौतों और जापान सरकार से 2830 मिलियन जापानी येन के सहायता अनुदान पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए थे।

(घ) इस समय ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Loss to Navy due to failure of Missile Protection System

1771. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the missile protection systems and electronic warfare programme bought by the Navy for over Rs. 50 crore, failed during sea acceptance trials and had to be upgraded compromising the Navy's operational requirements;

(b) whether the matter has been enquired into, responsibility fixed and action taken against the authorities responsible for endangering the security of the Nation and wasteful expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Some systems had partially failed during the initial sea acceptance trials but these were suitably modified by the firm for the Navy's use without compromising operational requirements.

(b) and (c) A special audit by CDA (Navy) has been ordered into the deficiencies in the implementation of the contract pertaining to the Electronic Warfare Systems.

Newsitem, Telephone Lines have miles to go

1772. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 6th July, 1996 under caption "Telephone lines have miles to go";

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The gap between the demand and supply of telephone over the years has drastically reduced. In the first four years of 8th Plan additional capacity of 61.68 lakh lines has been created for reducing the waiting list drastically. In fact barring a few pockets, the OYT connections are current. To accelerate the momentum of providing telephones to all villages, Government under National Telephone Policy 1994 has allowed participation by private operators to provide value added services and basic services.

Development of Telecom Network on such a massive scale involves installation of exchanges and heavy cable laying. In Delhi two lakh subscribers have been given connections during 1995-96. Only in a few places the release of connections was delayed due to non availability of cable pairs. In such cases prompt action is taken to solve the problems by using pair gain system. Release of connections are reviewed at the higher level and continuous efforts are made to improve the services.

There are 603906 villages in the country out of which 216632 have been provided with public telephone facility.

Calcutta Telephone district has 468 villages out of which 56 have been provided with public telephone facility upto 31.3.96. Tamil Nadu has 20196 villages out of which 14430 have been covered with public telephone facility. The remaining villages are being covered progressively.